

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

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FOLL REPEAT STATE 153717 ACTION BONN, LONDON, PARIS, TOKYO
30 JUN 75:

QUOTE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD

SUBJECT: GATT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 4

REF: GENEVA 4986

STATE 36542 DATED FEBRUARY 18, 1975, IS REPEATED FOR
YOUR INFO PER REFTEL;

1. DRAFT REPORT ON WORK OF BOP COMMITTEE DURING 1970-74
(REF B) CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW WITHIN USG. REPORT
APPEARS WELL WRITTEN AND RAISES NUMBER OF COMPLEX BUT
IMPORTANT POLICY QUESTIONS (GATT-IMF RELATIONS, GATT
REFORM IN MTN. DIVERSITY OF MEASURES WHICH HAVE BOP
IMPLICATIONS). WE SHARE MISSION'S VIEW (REF A) THAT
FEBRUARY 19 MEETING DOES NOT PERMIT DETAILED PREPARATION
OF CP POSITIONS ON THESE ISSUES. WE ASSUME THIS FIRST
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MEETING WILL NECESSARILY BE LIMITED TO GENERAL

DISCUSSION AND TO SETTING AGENDA FOR SUBSEQUENT
DELIBERATIONS.

2. WE FIND BOP COMMITTEE INITIATIVE TIMELY IN VIEW OF
THE GROWING PRESSURES FOR NEW BOP RESTRICTIONS; ALTHOUGH
IN GENERAL WE HOLD VIEW THAT BOP COMMITTEE WORK HAS BEEN
USEFUL CHECK ON RESORT TO UNJUSTIFIABLE BOP MEASURES,

WE BELIEVE IMPROVEMENTS CAN AND SHOULD BE MADE WE WILL
SUPPORT CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF EXISTING GATT BOP RULES
AND PROCEDURES. SPECIFICALLY WE BELIEVE (A) GATT
RULES SHOULD BE CHANGED TO ALLOW THE USE OF SURCHARGES
FOR BOP PURPOSES AND

(B) EXISTING GATT RULES AND PROCEDURES SHOULD BE
REVIEWED WITH A VIEW TO DEALING MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH
PROBLEMS OF COUNTRIES WHICH FLAUNT OR EVADE GATT BOP
CONSULTATION PROCEDURES.

3. CONTENT OF DRAFT REPORT APPEARS TO GIVE FACTUAL
ACCOUNT OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK, WITH A FEW MINOR
OMISSIONS (E.G. SRI LANKA AND EGYPT ARE LEFT OFF LIST
OF COUNTRIES CONSULTING UNDER ABBREVIATED PROCEDURES
IN 1973). SHORT COMINGS OF PRESENT CONSULTATION
PROCEDURES ARE WELL IDENTIFIED IN DRAFT REPORT AND,
AS MISSION POINTS OUT, HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR BETTER
COORDINATION OF AND COUNTRY ADHERENCE TO GATT BOP
COMMITTEE PROCEDURES. IN SHORT WE CAN ACCEPT REPORT
AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THIS SUBJECT.
USREP MAY THEREFORE TAKE LEAD IN PROPOSING FURTHER
COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON REVIEW OF EXISTING GATT BOP
RULES AND PROCEDURES INCLUDING INITIAL ATTENTION ON
THE TWO AREAS OF CONCERN NOTED PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE
RE TIMING ON THIS SUBJECT IN MTN: IF DISCUSSIONS IN
GATT BOP COMMITTEE CONFIRM OUR CURRENT IMPRESSION
THAT MOST COUNTRIES NOW SERIOUSLY AND POSITIVELY
INTERESTED IN MODERNIZING GATT BOP RULES AND
PROCEDURES, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BEGINNING
MORE SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS IN MTN AS SOON AS FEASIBLE.
IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS, BOP COMMITTEE COULD DO USEFUL
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PREPARATORY WORK IN CLARIFYING WHERE CONSENSUS
ALREADY EXISTS AND WHAT DIFFERENCES WILL NEED TO BE
NEGOTIATED. INGERSOOLL
UNQUOTE

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